

United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
Jae Seung Lee	1594.1287	7591	
	EXAMINER		
	HANSEN, JAMES ORVILLE		
	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
	3637		_
		Jae Seung Lee 1594.1287 EXAM HANSEN, JAM ART UNIT	Jae Seung Lee 1594.1287 7591 EXAMINER HANSEN, JAMES ORVILLE ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Paper No(s)/Mail Date _

Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other:

Application/Control Number: 10/644,961 Page 2

Art Unit: 3637

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-20, 22-50 & 52-61, drawn to a cabinet, classified in class 312, subclass 401.
- II. Claim 62, drawn to a method of assembling a cabinet, classified in class312, subclass 352.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

- 2. Inventions II and I are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as providing an outer casing, providing two inner liners, providing a support panel and mullion assembly, attaching the panel to the outer casing, front loading the inner liners within the outer casing, and attaching the mullion at the junction of the inner liners and support panel.
- 3. Additionally, this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: Species I fig. 9A, Species II fig. 9B, Species III fig. 9C, and Species IV fig. 9D. Figures 1-3 depict Prior Art. Figures 4-7, 8A, 8B, 10A, 10B, 11A and 11B are deemed to be generic.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits [in the event that the Group I invention is elected] to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Currently, at least claim 1 is deemed generic.

Art Unit: 3637

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse.

To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Application/Control Number: 10/644,961 Page 4

Art Unit: 3637

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James O. Hansen whose telephone number is 571-272-6866. The examiner can be reached on Monday-Friday between 8-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James O. Hansen Primary Examiner

James O. Human

Art Unit 3637

JOH February 17, 2006